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Letter dated 8 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I regret to have to draw the Security Council's attention to the failure by the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) to demilitarize the city of Kisangani, in flagrant violation of the relevant provisions of Council resolution 1304 (2000) of 16 June 2000 and all the subsequent Council resolutions on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The failure to demilitarize the city of Kisangani is also contrary to the decisions of the Political Committee on the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, at its extraordinary meeting held in Lusaka on 20 March 2002 (see S/2002/305), which, inter alia, called on Rwanda to implement the disengagement plan in full and to accelerate the demilitarization of Kisangani by, at the latest, 6 April 2002.

The failure to demilitarize the city is also inconsistent with the decisions of the Fourth Summit Meeting of Signatories to the Ceasefire Agreement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, held by heads of State in Lusaka on 3 April 2002.

Likewise, and again in violation of resolution 1399 (2002) of 19 March 2002 and the decisions of the extraordinary meeting of the Political Committee on the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, held in Lusaka on 20 March 2002, troops of the Rwandan Patriotic Army have not withdrawn from the city of Pweto by the prescribed deadline. A more serious development, according to information reaching us, is that they are instead reinforcing their positions in Pweto, thus jeopardizing all prospects for peace in the region.

Moreover, my Government would again like to draw the Security Council's attention to the situation in the high plateaux, more precisely in the Minembwe area, and around the city of Uvira, where intense fighting directly involving the Rwandan Patriotic Army has been reported. Several independent sources, including international news agencies, report that thousands of Rwandan soldiers, supported by attack helicopters, have been sent in.

The fact that such fighting is actually taking place has been confirmed by the President of Rwanda, Mr. Paul Kagame, during his statement to the press in Kigali on 6 April 2002, refuting the statement by the spokesman for the Rwandan Patriotic

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Army, Colonel Jean Bosco Kazura, who, on 2 April 2002, was still strongly denying any participation by Rwandan soldiers in such fighting.

In the context of the partnership between the United Nations Security Council and the Political Committee on the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, my Government would like the Council to issue an emphatic warning to Rwanda to deter it from continuing to flout the entire international community through the Security Council, and to induce it to refrain from pursuing its policy of destabilizing the peace processes in the Great Lakes region.

At a time when the work of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue is entering its final phase in South Africa, the Council — in partnership with the Political Committee and against the background of effective deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a full third phase — absolutely must focus on the later phases of the timetable for implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement, including:

1. The release and exchange of prisoners of war;

2. The orderly withdrawal of all foreign forces, according to the schedule laid down in resolution 1304 (2000), in particular the occupation forces of Rwanda, a country that has been identified as the one major obstacle to the Lusaka and Arusha peace processes;

3. Restoration of the authority of the State over all the national territory;

4. Implementation of disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration programmes;

5. Measures to normalize the security situation along the international frontiers of the countries of the Great Lakes region;

6. The need to establish confidence-building measures for the countries of the region, for example, by convening, under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity/African Union, an international conference on peace, security, democracy and development in the Great Lakes region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Ileka **Atoki**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative